

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FROM
SOUTHERN BUILDING CODE (SBC)
TO
INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE (IRC)**

Louisiana has adopted the International Code - 2000 edition on Jan. 1, 2004. In Lafayette Parish, we have adopted the International Building Code (IBC), the International Residential Code (IRC), the International Mechanical Code (IMC), and the International Fuel/Gas Code (IFGC).

Note: The deleted chapters in the IRC are: Chapters 11, and 25 thru 42
Enforcement of the International Residential code will begin for any permit issued on and after July 1, 2004

Previous Code was the Southern Building Code (SBC)

WORK THAT IS EXEMPT FROM PERMITTING:

SBC

- Does not address exemptions

IRC (R105.2)

- One-story detached accessory buildings 200 square feet or less on a moveable foundation
- Fences not over 6 feet high
- Others in book

CODE ITEMS THAT HAVE CHANGED – SBC TO IRC

Anchor Bolts

SBC

- 4 feet on center

IRC

- 6 feet on center

Fire Separation (Garage)

SBC

- No requirement

IRC (R 309)

- At an enclosed garage, ½ inch sheetrock on garage side only, up to deck or provide ½ inch sheetrock ceiling
- Solid wood, honeycomb core metal, or 20 minimum door
- No openings from garage to bedroom

Fire Separation (Lot Line)

SBC

- No fire-rated wall if over 3 feet from line
- Does not reference fire-rated overhang

IRC (R302)

- No fire-rated wall if 3 feet or more from line
- Overhang cannot be more than 1/3 distance from line and must have rating on underside

Emergency Escape (Bedroom Windows)

SBC

- Minimum 4 square feet with minimum height of 22 inches

IRC (R310)

- Minimum 5 square feet at first floor
- Minimum clear height of 24 inches
- Minimum 5.7 square feet at second or third floor

Stairs

SBC

- 24/25 inches ratio
- Minimum tread is 9 inches with 1 inch nosing
- A landing is required where there is 12 feet or more between floors

IRC (314.2)

- No ratio
- Minimum tread depth is 10 inches with 1 inch nosing
- Nosing is not required for a tread of 11 inches or more
- Landings are not required where there is 12 feet or more between floors

Stairs (winders)

SBC

- Minimum 11 inches tread at 12 inches from narrow end

IRC (R314.4)

- Minimum 10 inches tread at 12 inches from narrow end

Handrails

SBC

- 30 inches to 38 inches in height
- 1 ¼ inches to 2 inches in diameter
- Required for stairs with 4 or more risers

IRC (R315)

- 34 inches to 38 inches in height
- 1 ¼ inches to 2 5/8 inches in diameter
- Required for stairs with 2 or more risers

Guardrails

SBC

- No passage of a 6 inch sphere

IRC (R316)

- No passage of a 4 inch sphere
- 6 inch sphere is allowed at the triangular opening formed by the riser and tread

Smoke Alarms

SBC

- In each bedroom or at a central location in hall

IRC (R317)

- In each bedroom and outside each bedroom in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom

Site Address

SBC

- Encouraged but not required

IRC (R325)

- Numbers plainly visible from street

Wind Load

SBC

- 100 mph (Fastest Mile)

IRC (R301.2)

- 109 mph (3 Second Gust)
- Interpolated to avoid significant change to construction methods

Roofing

SBC

- 6 nails per shingle are required

IRC

- Number of nails per shingle is whatever the manufacturer specifies

Wall Bracing

SBC

- All corners and every 25 feet

IRC (R602.10.3)

- Same as SBC for one-story or top of a two or three story
- 30% for first of a two-story structure
- 45% for first of a three-story structure

Structural Sheathing

- Sheathing must bridge the floor-to-ceiling assembly when there is more than one floor
- Sheathing must catch the upper top plate
- Cannot complete wall bracing and roof sheathing with less than a 24 inch piece

Uplift

- Post: Secure to foundation and to beam
- Freestanding Structures: Brace
- Roof Additions: Lay a 2 x 6 on flat for jack rafters
- Chimney Chase: Thru-frame

Moisture Barrier

- A moisture barrier must be applied on the exterior side of any wood stud or structural sheathing. This means that if sheathing were applied to studs, the barrier would then be applied to the sheathing.

Weep holes and Flashing

SBC

- Weep holes and flashing are also required at lintels
- Weep hole spacing is 48 inches o.c.

IRC (R703.7.5) (R703.7.6)

- Weep hole spacing is 33 inches o.c.
- Weep holes and flashing are also required at lintels

Rafter bracing

SBC

- Does not address maximum angle

IRC (R802.5.1)

- Angle is no more than 45 degrees from horizontal

Fireplace Mantel & Trim

SBC

- No wood within 6 inches from opening
- 1 ½ inches projection is okay at 6 inches plus for each inch of projection, the distance is increased by an inch

IRC

- No wood within 6 inches from opening
- 1/8 inch projection per 1 inch distance from opening (within 12 inches from opening)
- Follow manufacturers specs for metal inserts

Tempered Glass

- There is an additional hazardous location in the IRC that requires tempered glass to be installed within 5 feet from the top or bottom of stairs.

International Code Website

www.iccsafe.org

We are using the 2000 edition

Local Code Website

www.LafayetteLa.gov

Select (PZC office) then, Select (codes)